one crore are lying idle all over Kerala following the enactment of the Central legislation banning sale of ivory and ivory products;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the reports that over three tonnes of ivory stock is lying unused in Kerala which is likely to be burnt due to acute shortage of storage space; and

(c) if so, what steps Government proposed to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Kerala Government has reported that they have about 1,850 Kg. of Indian ivory of an estimated value of Rs. 40 lakhs lying idle. The State Government do not have any plans to burn this stock.

(c) Guidelines have been issued to State Government to consider donating ivory tusks to Army messes.

Use of Indian Currency for Business Transaction with India by Nepal

1987. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Nepal has started with immediate effect the exchange and free flow of Indian Currency in business transaction with India under the most favoured nation regime; and

(b) if so, what is government's reaction thereto and what measures are being taken to safeguard India's interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government of Nepal are reported to have introduced certain changes in their exchange control regulations concerning Indian Currency.

Measures to safeguard India's interests have been worked out.

जम्मू और काश्मीर के फल उत्पादकों को बैंक ऋण सुविधाएं

1988. **डा० अबरार अहमद खान:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जम्मू और काश्मीर के फल उत्पादकों को फलों के बेहतर उत्पादन, भण्डारण और परिवहन के लिए कोई बैंक ऋण सुविधायें दी जा रही हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान दी गयी सुविधाओं का वर्षवार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडवर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) और (ख) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है बागबानी को प्राथमिकता प्राप्त क्षेत्रों को दिए जाने वाले ऋणों के लिए, कृषि के अन्तर्गत शामिल किया गया है । इस प्रकार बागबानी रियायती ब्याज दर पर ऋण सुविधा प्राप्त करने के लिए पात्र हैं तथा कृषि अग्रिमों पर लागू होने वाले उदार मार्जिन और प्रतिभूति संबंधी मानदंड इस पर भी लागू होते हैं । तथापि, वर्तमान सूचना प्रणाली से इस विशेष गतिविधि के लिए दिए जाने वाले ऋणों से संबंद्ध सूचना नहीं मिलती ।

Illegal Trading in the Inter-Bank Call Money Market by Banks

1989. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of banks in the country have been recently found indulging in illegal trading in the inter-bank call money market taking advantage of its refinancing facilities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check such illegal trading by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE